

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 11958 291714Z

64

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 STR-08 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /078 W

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R 291707Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4070

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: NEW CROP DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FRG

REF: TOFAS 219

1. TRADE RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING THAT MINAG HAS A RECENT NEW CROP ESTIMATE WHICH MAY FALL BELOW 20 RPT 20 MILLION TONS COMPARED TO MINAG ESTIMATE RELEASED IN EARLY JULY OF A RECORD 22.7 MILLION TON CROP BASED ON METEOROLOGICAL DATA AS OF MAY 31.

2. MINAG REPRESENTATIVE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE QUANTITY, BUT DID CONFIRM THAT NEW ESTIMATES EXIST.

3. TRADE SOURCES ALSO INDICATED THAT THE NEW ESTIMATES ARE BASED ON METEOROLOGICAL DATA TOGETHER WITH AN UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT OF FIELD SAMPLING.

4. WE AGREE WITH THE TRADE ASSESSMENT THAT A DECLINE OF OVER TWELVE PERCENT IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY EVEN CONSIDERING THE ADVERSE WEATHER DURING THAT PERIOD.

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5. SUPPORTING OUR CONTENTION THAT RECENT RAINFALL HAS

HINDERED THE CROP MORE THAN IT HAS HELPED IS THE RECENT
PUBLIC APPEAL TO MINAG BY THE ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN CO-
OPERATIVES FOR AN INCREASE TO 20 PERCENT FROM 16 PERCENT
IN THE MAXIMUM MOISTURE ALLOWED IN WHEAT ACCEPTED FOR
INTERVENTION. THE PRESENT LIMIT OF 16 PERCENT WILL
CAUSE A HIGHER THAN USUAL AMOUNT OF WHEAT TO BE FED ON
FARMS. IN OUR OPINION FEEDING OF HIGH MOISTURE WHEAT
WILL SERVE THE SAME DISPOSITION END AS REINSTITUTING THE
DENATURING PREMIUM BUT WITHOUT THE BUDGETARY OUTLAYS. CASH

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